

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION

Date and Time :- Tuesday 13 June 2023 at 10.00 a.m.
Venue:- Town Hall, Moorgate Street, Rotherham.
Membership:- Councillors Pitchley (Chair), Cooksey (Vice Chair), Atkin, Bacon, Baker-Rogers, Z Collingham, Griffin, Haleem, Hughes, Khan, McNeely and Monk

This meeting will be webcast live and will be available to view [via the Council's website](#). The items which will be discussed are described on the agenda below and there are reports attached which give more details.

Rotherham Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair or Governance Advisor of their intentions prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive the apologies of any Member who is unable to attend the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 April 2023 (Pages 5 - 9)

To consider and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 April 2023 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of items listed on the agenda.

4. Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any part of the agenda.

5. Questions from Members of the Public and the Press

To receive questions relating to items of business on the agenda from

members of the public or press who are present at the meeting.

6. Communications

To receive communications from the Chair in respect of matters within the Commission's remit and work programme.

7. Corporate Parenting Panel - Update

To consider any updates from the Corporate Parenting Panel.

8. Presentation - Samantha Sykes Foundation Trust (Pages 11 - 15)

To receive a presentation from Julie Warren-Sykes on the work of the Samantha Sykes Foundation Trust.

The Chairty helps young people who are at high risk of, or who are victims, of child sexual exploitation. It also help children and young people who are looked after by the local authority and care leavers up to the age of 25 years.

9. Presentation - Safeguarding children from radicalisation (Page 17)

To receive a presentation from the Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services on safeguarding children from radicalisation.

The presentation will cover the following issues:

- Legal framework
- Partnership work and governance
- Referral pathways
- Channel programme
- Awareness raising and training
- Prevent Duty performance review and quality assurance
- Harms of Hate work with schools

10. Work Programme

To consider and approve the Commission's Work Programme.

11. Improving Lives Select Commission - Sub and Project Group Updates

For the Chair/project group leads to provide an update on the activity regarding sub and project groups of the he Improving Lives Select Commission.

12. Urgent Business

To consider any item(s) the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

13. Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission take place on Tuesday 25 July 2023 commencing at 10.00am in Rotherham Town Hall.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Kemp'.

Sharon Kemp,
Chief Executive.

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IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION
Tuesday 7 March 2023

Present:- Councillor Pitchley (in the Chair); Councillors Cooksey, Andrews, Atkin, Aveyard, Bacon, Baker-Rogers, Bennett-Sylvester, Elliott, Haleem, Hughes and McNeely.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillor Cusworth .

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

60. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2023

Resolved: - That the Minutes of the meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission, held on 31 January 2023 be approved as a correct record of proceedings.

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

62. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items of business on the agenda that required the exclusion of the press and public from the meeting.

63. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no questions from members of the public or press.

64. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications from the Chair in respect of matters within the Commission's remit and work programme.

65. CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - UPDATE

The Corporate Parenting Panel met on 31 January 2023 and further information would be provided regarding the outcome of that meeting in due course.

66. FAMILY HUBS AND START FOR LIFE PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Chair invited Susan Clayton, Head of Service Early Help and Family Engagement and Alex Hawley, Consultant in Public Health to introduce the report and presentation.

At the autumn budget, the Government announced their ambition to have

a network of family hubs across the country to create a strong start for life. These would offer parenting programmes, breastfeeding support and infant-parent mental health support. In April 2022, the Government announced that 75 local authorities would receive funding directly.

The ethos of the family hubs programme was to make services more accessible for children and families. Those services could be provided through using a physical space but there was also a big emphasis on having virtual spaces for those who were able to self-serve. The family hubs programme needed to be attuned to the needs of local families to ensure they get the right help at the right time. The community and voluntary sector were a big part of the whole family support service being offered as well to reduce the amount of times families were being moved between services.

The programme would enable the creation of a single digital offer combining the different websites and platforms available to families, children and young people. The programme would also transform the way existing services were delivered, with emphasis around co-location. This did not mean co-location in terms of being in the same office but was also around ensuring that pathways were aligned and joined up between services so that they could be accessed in person at a family hub or another building or through the digital offer.

The services being provided would need to be clearly branded and communicated so that these could be clearly identified by families who were signed up to the family hubs programme.

Whilst there was still a key emphasis on the Start for Life offer within the family hubs programme it now brought together services for families with children of all ages, 0-19 or up to 25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). It was important that family hubs would become a place that welcomed everyone and not just those with problems.

There were key family hubs principles around enabling services to be brought together, better collaboration, working across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors. The family hub model that had been agreed included 'Family Hub Plus' settings in the north, south and central of the borough, along with 'Family Hub Extra' and 'Family Hub Satellite' settings. The main different between the Plus and Extra settings was space. The three buildings that had been earmarked as the family hub plus settings were Maltby Steppingstones children's centre, the Swinton, Brookfield children's centre and at the moment The Place as the central location.

It was noted that The Place and Swinton Brookfield were not large buildings, which was why other buildings would become 'extra' hubs to allow delivery of the required services to continue. A number of voluntary sector organisations were committed to become a family hub satellite site, meaning once they had been signed up to the digital offer, they could be

able to make appointments and offer support.

The programme was a joint effort between the Public Health and Children and Young People Services teams but had also included many other services as well. The was around empowering the community and including building a further with more empowered and skilled parenting.

The Chair invited questions leading to the following points being raised during the course of discussions:

- It was noted that the report mentioned short term capacity upon which it was explained that funding was being provided until March 2025.
- All screenings and any other data collected would be kept in line with existing data legislation.
- Many of the existing sites and centres already accepted donations of school uniform and clothes to assist where needed.
- The support offered through this programme is inclusive and would be offered to all in need, whether they were single or part of a couple.
- Support for early miscarriage had been identified as an area where further support could be provided through the hubs as provision of support for miscarriages at other times was already available.
- It was clarified that services would not just be provided in the locations identified earlier. There were plans to make use of various buildings, such as libraries and other community buildings, where appropriate, to provide services within a reasonable distance for families.
- It was explained that all the staff understood the communities in their localities. There was a desire to ensure that there were no gaps in provision across the borough, through the use of satellite hubs.
- Schools were at the heart of communities, and it was hoped that every school would have a link officer. It was also hoped that the parenting programmes could be delivered within schools.
- The hubs and services would be for all Rotherham families, not just those in need of support.
- It would be of great benefit to have school nurses, health visitors and other same co-located being able to share knowledge and reduce working in silos.
- It was clarified that nothing would change for the existing approach used by Pause but there was a desire to change the mainstream approaches such as on hospital wards, for example signs being placed on the door where a child has been lost so people are respectful of that loss and advice could be given on how best to support them.
- Discussions were taking place with Asset Management regarding buildings that could be utilised as hubs enabling easier access for children and families along with being able to house multidisciplinary professionals.

- It was understood that not everyone had the ability to access the digital offer, therefore systems would be put in place to enable someone else to request support leading to a phone call or contact back to the family.

The Chair thanked Susan and Alex for the presentation and asked that in terms of recommendation two, that the service provide details of the best time for the Improving Lives Select Commission to receive the further update on progress.

Resolved: that

1. Members of the Improving Lives Select Commission note the intended use of the grant to 'transform' family help and support services.
2. Members of the Improving Lives Select Commission agree to receive a further update on progress of the Family Hubs transformation programme and the delivery of the Early Help Strategy.

67. OUTCOMES FROM THE REVIEW OF THE DRAFT CHILD EXPLOITATION STRATEGY (2023 - 2028).

The Chair welcomed Helen Sweaton, Joint Assistant Director, Commissioning, Quality and Performance to the meeting. Helen introduced the report noting that the workshop was well attended. It produced some really positive and constructing feedback which would inform the development of the new strategy. The comments received during the workshop were extremely helpful including some really practical tips as to what could be included to make it mean more to members of the public.

The Chair indicated it had been a very useful day and all comments had been taken on board. She asked that in terms of recommendation three, that the service provide details of the best time for the Improving Lives Select Commission to receive the further update on the progress and implementation of the Strategy.

Resolved: That Improving Lives Select Commission:

1. Notes the outcomes and recommendations of its review of the draft Child Exploitation Strategy as outlined.
2. Notes that the recommendations have been forwarded to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and will be incorporated in the final strategy.
3. Receives further updates on the progress and implementation of the Child Exploitation Strategy.

68. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its Work Programme.

Resolved: That the Work Programme for 2022/23 be approved.

69. IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION - SUB AND PROJECT GROUP UPDATES

The Chair advised that there was no progress report on sub and project group activity.

70. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

71. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission take place on 25 April 2023 commencing at 10am in Rotherham Town Hall.

Resolved: That the next meeting of the Improving Lives Select Commission would take place on Tuesday, 25 April 2023, commencing at 10am at Rotherham Town Hall.

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The Samantha Sykes Foundation Trust (SSFT) was formed following the tragic murder of our daughter, Samantha, in 2012, aged 18, as a way of continuing her legacy, which was to help disadvantaged young people and children. The Samantha Sykes Foundation Trust was first registered in 2014.

Although the charity is named after Samantha, its purpose is about the life experiences of some of the people Samantha tried to support. Its two purposes are;

1. To support looked-after children and care leavers to access further and higher education by providing them with items such as laptops, travel passes, books or anything else we believe will help them to fulfil their true potential.
2. To support victims and those at high risk of child sexual exploitation by funding specialist therapeutic interventions to help them re-build their lives.

Please see below some of the examples of how the donations we receive have contributed to making a difference to someone's life. Please note that the content may be upsetting.

Case 1.

Young female who had been trafficked across Europe by her family. Provision of a laptop, so she could access therapy online due to the pandemic. Also, to support academic achievement. £325.00

Case 2.

Young female care leaver who has experienced significant sexual abuse/exploitation during her life. In need of therapy but does not wish to have the traditional type of therapy/counselling. Appropriate therapy identified and sourced. £1,000

Case 3.

This care leaver had just started a degree in Graphic Design at a local university. He has been in the care of his local authority since the age of 14. Due to the nature of his course he requires a much higher spec machine than the one he currently owned. He had no family support, no access to financial resource and unable to afford to fund this from his student loan. A very resourceful and proactive student who had started his own YouTube channel to gain more experience. Consultation with his tutors about what kind of laptop he would ideally need for the course, identified a MacBook Pro. £1275

Case 4.

18-year-old care leaver and father to a one-year old baby. His daughter is currently not in his care. Trying to (in his words) get his life on track. Would like to access and complete basic GCSEs in Math's and English, look at specialist qualifications in the Arts, but also find a part time job. He is currently in temporary accommodation as the Local Authority are trying to find him a permanent home. No access to IT, which keeps him in a cycle of being unable to achieve progress. A Social Enterprise organisation were willing to support him, if he could get access to a laptop. The young person also suffers from anxiety and uses Art as a medium for mental health support. £275

Case 5.

This young person has experienced severe developmental trauma and sexual abuse from her father from the age of 3 to the age of 15 which included sexual exploitation with other males within the community. She fled the family home at 16 and was homeless. The young person is now accessing therapy on a weekly basis since last year. She is only able to access this remotely due to her location and difficulties with travel.

Her previous experience of support was from a therapist provided by her father from their local place of worship who invalidated the abuse that she had suffered. Understandably she does not trust services and is unable to register with a G.P or engage with mental health services. She is frightened to own a mobile phone due to the belief that she will be found and harmed. She suffers with severe anxiety, paranoia, depression, suicidal ideation, and emotional unstable moods because of her experiences.

As a result of sustained abuse, neglect and systemic failures, the young person requires long term therapy to help her to heal from her experiences. After 12 months of consistent therapy sessions, she has just reached the point of being able to touch on the details on her traumatic past and to begin to process these. The young person is a talented artist with a world of potential. At SSFT we believe that this potential should be nurtured, and supported to grow, so that this young person can go on to reach their full potential in life. £1, 820 (to date)

Case 6.

Young female looked-after child, whose foster carer has made a commitment to move her over to the 'staying put' strategy, which will mean she can remain in foster care and have a stable home through their A Levels and University education. The young person wants to apply for a Fine Art degree at the end of her A levels in 2024. Local universities where the young person wants to study use digital technology in the creation of Fine Arts, more and more Fine Arts based outputs are becoming digital and product driven.

This is a specialist field of study, with major needs with regards to equipment. The young person needed to have the same amount of time to enable her to develop to her digital art skills during A levels, to be on par with her peers. Otherwise, she would be significantly behind at the start of university. Following advice from University's, the iPad pro was deemed to be the appropriate equipment and is seen as the new drawing pad for students. The young person is currently excelling in her A levels, and her school are thrilled with her progress. iPad pro purchased. £749

As you can see, we believe that the work we do is incredibly important. There are many more tragic stories where SSFT has made a difference, but it is only with the support from like-minded people who work hard on behalf of these vulnerable groups to raise awareness and funds, that we can continue. Every donation, no matter how small, is valued.

We look forward to working with you to make the lives of our children and young people better.



Julie Warren-Sykes Trustee

Please do check out our website <https://samanthasykesfoundation.com/>

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SAMANTHA SYKES

FOUNDATION TRUST

Registered Charity 1161175

In 2012 two Wakefield teenagers were murdered, Samantha Sykes & Kimberley Frank. This Charity is in remembrance of these two young people, both remarkable in their own way. Check out the full story @ <https://samanthasykesfoundation.com/>

Care Leavers: The Facts:

Young people who are in the Care of the Local Authority are too often forgotten, Locally & Nationally. Without family support many, who have huge potential, are forgotten or abandoned. This Charity recognises the gap and endeavours to help these young people gain access to Further & Higher Education. We provide funds for equipment, travel, short courses, books etc.

Only 6% of Care Leavers go on to Higher and Further Education, mainly due to lack of funding or support. This Charity has helped over 3,000 young people.



Victims of Child Sexual Exploitation

All too often we hear in the media about Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Frequently, the focus is about the perpetrators, we rarely hear what happens to the victims. Many have mental health issues, experience trauma and have also suffered psychological and physical abuse. This Charity recognises the devastation caused, and supports the young victims to access specialist therapeutic interventions and counselling. By helping these young people to become survivors, we help to rebuild broken lives.

Your Support Matters

Our Charity is run 100% by volunteers, we have 6 Trustees who give their time freely. In 2020/2021, 96.4% of funds raised went directly to young people. Our only costs are items such as this leaflet, hosting events, and other low value items. We can honestly say 'your money is well spent!' We are a Yorkshire based Charity who currently work predominantly in West & South Yorkshire, so you know anything you help us with will go to people close to home.

<https://samanthasykesfoundation.com/>

Find Us @



Believe AND
BE Inspired

Registered Charity 1161175

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Background Information: Safeguarding Children from Radicalisation

This issue was included on the Improving Lives Select Commission work programme in 2022/23.

The purpose of the presentation is to facilitate the scrutiny of the work that councils do with their partners to safeguard children from radicalisation, in line with the statutory duties under Prevent.

The following points are the contributions scrutiny can make to the Council's Prevent agenda:

- Supporting and challenging the assessment of risk - How are risks identified, managed and assessed? Who is involved?
- Scrutinising Prevent and counter-extremism action plans in general – how effective are these, particularly with regards to children's safeguarding? How is this assessed?
- Monitoring and managing and developing the authority's partnerships and relationships – how does the Council work with schools, early help and other key partnerships?
- 'Mainstreaming' counter-extremism and Prevent work - how the priorities are reflected in the work of the Council and partners?

Further reading:

[Scrutiny, counter-extremism and the Prevent duty](#)

[Rotherham Safeguarding Children Partnership - Prevent](#)

[Prevent and Channel – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council](#)

Department for Education (DfE) (2015) [The Prevent duty: departmental advice for schools and childcare providers](#). London: Department for Education.

Department for Education (DfE) (2021) [Prevent duty self-assessment tool: further education](#).

Department for Education (DfE) (2022) [The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation](#).

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